

## Let's maintain secure access to the Global Commons

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In February 2010, the U.S. Department of Defense published the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR), which repeatedly emphasized maintaining **secure access to the global commons** (areas of the world beyond the control of any state: sea, space and cyberspace.) Since these are also in Japan's interest, I will focus on these three domains plus one more area where US-Japan cooperation can be utilized to counter new threats.

### · Freedom of Navigation on the High Seas

The US-Japan Alliance should be utilized to coordinate efforts to terminate harassing activities of state-sponsored and non-nation state actors. Recently several incidents include: 1) the Chinese Naval and Maritime Militia vessels harassing USNS Impeccable 70 nm off the South China sea coastline in March 2009, 2) USNS Victorious in the Yellow Sea in May 2009 and 3) a Japan Coast Guard ship expelled by a Chinese Ocean Surveillance ship 173 nm NW of Amami Oshima in the East China Sea. Furthermore, China appears to be developing anti-access capabilities forcing the U.S. and Japan to increase Ballistic Missile Defense and Anti-Submarine /Mine Warfare efforts.

### · Cyber Security

As the world becomes more dependant upon cyber space, some countries with hostile intent have increased their efforts to use this medium to inflict damage. Reports have indicated that China and North Korea are developing strong cyber attack capabilities that can reach areas throughout the world. It was also reported that Russia used cyber attacks prior to their employment of forces against Georgia in 2008 and against the Kirghiz Republic in 2009. In light of the increased attacks, US-Japanese efforts should also be focused to counter this threat and provide a safe operating area..

### · Space

In the 1990's, concerns regarding the free use of space were raised when China began developing an anti-satellite facility in Kiribati. These concerns were heightened when China conducted an anti-satellite weapons test in January 2007. This new capability threatened the defensive U.S.-Japan BMD efforts and more notably space surveillance

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assets. Once again, the U.S.-Japan Alliance should coordinate efforts to prevent these types of destructive activities.

In addition to what is stated above, we should cooperate in other areas regarding technology security. According to the recent *Annual Report to Congress: Military Power of the People's Republic of China*, there were numerous espionage cases that were reportedly initiated by Chinese sources. Japan has not been immune from these Chinese attacks and as experienced by the Denso incident of 2007 and the illegal export of an unmanned aerial vehicle from Yamaha in 2005. Once again, a combined US-Japanese effort to counter this hostile act would greatly benefit both countries.